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Daily Highlights

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FRIDAY HIGHLIGHTS

+ Security Council asks Secretary-General tc begin consultations with view to fundamental and far-reaching reflection on Cyprus problem; reiterates that status quo is unacceptable and calls on parties to cooperate fully in reaching settlement.

+ Security Council condemns recent bomb attacks in Buenos Aires and London, and demands immediate end to all such terrorist actions; stresses need for international cooperation in tackling terrorism.

+ Security Council condemns extremist elements blocking progress towards peaceful settlement in Burundi; demands that incitements to violence or ethnic hatred cease.

+ Security Council welcomes progress towards implementation of settlement plan for Western Sahara; urges parties to continue cooperation with Secretary-General and MINURSO.

+ General Assembly establishes Office of Internal Oversight Services, to be headed by Under-Secretary-General; authorizes $300 million for peace-keeping and related activities.

+ Secretary-General says he will soon set up three-member Commission of Experts to investigate humanitarian violations, including genocide, in Rwanda.

+ International Tribunal for former Yugoslavia completes legal and operational framework necessary to begin functioning as criminal court in September.

+ Secretary-General says Association of Displaced Persons is blockading UNPAs in Croatia and preventing UNPROFOR from carrying out its duties.

+ Ad Hoc Committee on Convention on Safety of United Nations Personnel to discuss negotiating text during meeting in New York from 1 to 12 August.

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For information media—not an official record

+ Preparatory Commission for International Seabed Authority and Law of Sea Tribunal to hold final session from 1 to 12 August.

+ Bosnian President asks Security Council to convene urgent meeting on Bosnian Serb closure of blue route across Sarajevo airport; says strangulation of city threatens peace process.

+ Department of Humanitarian Affairs arranges emergency airlift of relief supplies to Yemen.

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The Security Council today asked the Secretary-General to begin consultations with it, the Guarantor Powers, and the two leaders in Cyprus with a view to a fundamental and far-reaching reflection on ways to approach the Cyprus problem in a manner that would yield results. It reiterated its call to the parties to demonstrate their commitment to a settlement by cooperating fully to that end. The Council took that action by adopting resolution 939 (1994), in response to the options and ideas set out in the Secretary-General's report of 30 May.

The Council reiterated that the maintenance of the status quo in Cyprus was unacceptable. It also reaffirmed that a settlement must be based on a State of Cyprus with a single scvereignty, international personality and citizenship, with its independence and territorial integrity safeguarded, and comprising two politically equal communities in a bi-communal and bi-zonal federation. Such a settlement must exclude union in whole or in part with any other country or any form of partition or secession.

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The Security Council today strongly condemned the terrorist attack in Buenos Aires on 18 July, which caused great loss of human life, and the attacks in London on 26 and 27 July. In a statement read out to correspondents by its President, Jamsheed Marker (Pakistan), the Council expressed its sympathy to the victims and their families, and to the Governments and people of Argentina and the United Kingdom. It demanded an immediate end to all such terrorist attacks.

The Council recalled the statement issued at its Summit on 31 January 1992, expressing deep concern over acts of international terrorism and emphasizing the need for the international community to deal effectively with them. It stressed the need to strengthen international cooperation in order to prevent, combat and eliminate all forms of terrorism, which affected the international community as a whole.

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The Security Council today condemned extremist elements in Burundi who sought to block progress towards a peaceful settlement and demanded an immediate end to any incitements to violence or ethnic hatred. In a statement

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by its President, Jamsheed Marker (Pakistan), the Council expressed alarm at the recent violence in Bujumbura, and again condemned the interruption of the democratic process in Burundi.

The Council expressed support for the ongoing political dialogue aimed at an early agreement on presidential succession. It called on all people in Burundi, especially political, military and religious leaders, to support the negotiations leading to a settlement based on democratic principles. The Council welcomed the ongoing cooperation between the Organization of African Unity (OAU) and the United Nations to assist in maintaining peace in Burundi. It encouraged the Secretary-General to continue using his good offices through his Special Representative.

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The Security Council today welcomed the progress made on the issues outlined in the Secretary-General's report of 12 July towards the implementation of the settlement plan for Western Sahara. It urged the parties to continue to cooperate with the Secretary-General and the United Nations Mission for the Referendum in Western Sahara (MINURSO) to ensure the implementation of the settlement plan as soon as possible.

In a Presidential Statement by Jamsheed Marker (Pakistan), the Council noted the Secretary-General's proposals for a revised timetable to organize the referendum for self-determination, scheduled for 14 February 1995. It looked forward to his next report in August, on the basis of which it hoped to decide on the organization and timing of the referendum. In the meantime, the Council welcomed the intention of the Identification Commission to set 31 August 1994 as the deadline for receipt of voter application forms.

The Secretary-General's report reviewed preparatory work for the identification and registration of potential voters, the confinement of troops to designated locations and the release of political prisoners and detainees. Other issues covered were the suspension of laws which might impede a free and fair referendum, organization of the referendum and the return of refugees.

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The General Assembly today established an Office of Internal Oversight Services, and authorized it to initiate and conduct any action required for monitoring, internal audit, inspections and investigations in the United Nations. The new Office will be headed by an Under-Secretary-General. It will take over the functions of the Office for Inspections and Investigations created last year by the Secretary-General and have operational independence under his authority.

The Assembly also adopted two decisions attached to the text on the Oversight Office. By the first, it will consider measures to improve United Nations external oversight mechanisms at its next session. By the second, it

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asked the Secretary-General to report to that session on provisions of the Convention on the Privileges and Immunities of the United Nations for settling disputes to which the Organization was a party.

In addition, the Assembly authorized more than $300 million for peace-keeping and related activities. That figure included: $140 million gross monthly for the United Nations Protection Force (UNPROFOR) from 1 October to 30 November 1994, should the Security Council continue the Force beyond 30 September; $25 million for liquidating the United Nations Operation in Mozambique (ONUMOZ) from 16 November 1994 to 31 January 1995; and $10 million for the United Nations Observer Mission in Liberia (UNOMIL) for 22 April to 22 October.

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Secretary-General Boutros Boutros-Ghali will soon set up a three-member Commission of Experts to investigate grave humanitarian violations, including possible acts of genocide, in Rwanda. In a report to the Security Council dated 26 July, he noted that the Commission on Human Rights had appointed a Special Rapporteur, René Degni-Ségui, to investigate such abuses. To avoid overlapping and to maximize resources, the Rapporteur would also report to the Commission of Experts. It would be located in Geneva where it could use the resources of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights.

The Secretary-General said the Commission would review and update available information and carry out its own investigations during the first stage of its work. In the second stage, it would draw conclusions based on evidence of specific violations in order to identify the persons responsible. It would then decide whether they should be tried under national or international juristiction. He said he would also establish a trust fund to assist the Commission.

In a related development, the Special Rapporteur will undertake a second mission to Rwanda from 28 to 31 July, to discuss human rights concerns with the Government, especially regarding refugees and internally displaced persons. The Special Rapporteur will also visit Goma to examine the situation of Rwandese refugees there.

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The last plenary session of the International Tribunal for the former Yugoslavia concluded in The Hague, the Netherlands, today after completing the legal and operational framework necessary for the Tribunal to begin functioning as a criminal court this Autumn. The Judges will be able to proceed with indictments as of 1 September.

The Judges also agreed on the installation and equipment of the courtroom, which is scheduled for completion 21 October. They also welcomed Justice Richard Goldstone, the Tribunal's prosecutor, who will assume his duties on 15 August.

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Demonstrations by the Association of Displaced Persons are preventing the United Nations Protection Force (UNPROFOR) from carrying out its duties in Croatia, according to Secretary-General Boutros Boutros-Ghali. In a letter to the Security Council President dated 27 July, he said the blockade of United Nations Protected Areas (UNPAs) could not be allowed to continue. He warned that UNPROFOR's capabilities would be seriously reduced without freedom of movement for supplies and logistics.

The Secretary-General said that while the Croatian Government might not fully control the demonstrators, it was responsible for ensuring that they did not prevent UNPROFOR from carrying out its mandate. He recommended that the Council call on the Government to fulfil its obligations to the Force and to end the blockade.

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The Ad Hoc Committee on the Elaboration of an International Convention Dealing with the Safety and Security of United Nations and Associated Personnel will meet in New York from 1 to 12 August. The Committee is drafting an international convention to protect the personnel concerned, and will discuss a negotiating text approved last April. The text covers such issues as individual criminal responsibility for attacks on United Nations personnel and prosecution of alleged offenders. Discussion is expected to focus on the definition of such terms as "United Nations personnel" and "United Nations operation", and the scope of the convention's application.

In a report last September, Secretary-General Boutros Boutros-Ghali called attention to gaps in the security system for United Nations operations. Conditions had become extremely hazardous, particularly in areas lacking adequate government authority One staff member was killed every two weeks in 1993, compared with one every month in 1992. The Security Council subsequently adopted resolution 868 (1993), condemning the increased number of attacks and use of force against United Nations personnel.

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The Preparatory Commission for the International Seabed Authority and for the International Tribunal for the Law of the Sea will hold its last session at Headquarters from 1 to 12 August. It will consider budgetary and other arrangements for the Authority, as well as its report containing recommendations on practical arrangements for the establishment of the Tribunal.

The Preparatory Commission was established by the Third United Nations Conference on the Law of the Sea to ensure that the Authority and the Tribunal entered into effective operation without delay.

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Bosnian President Alija Izetbegovic has asked the Security Council to convene an urgent meeting in response to the Bosnian Serb closure of the "blue route" across Sarajevo airport. In a letter to the Council dated 27 July, he said that the siege of the city had never really been lifted, and that it had now been intensified.

President Izetbegovic refuted a Bosnian Serb allegation that Government forces had used the route to transport weapons. The United Nations Protection Force (UNPROFOR) inspected all traffic on it and had described the allegation as unfounded. However, the Force had taken no action to protect the corridor, which it controlled. He went on to say that the strangulation of Sarajevo jeopardized the peace process and threatened an expansion and intensification of the conflict.

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The United Nations Department of Humanitarian Affairs (DHA) has arranged an emergency flight to transport relief supplies to Yemen. The plane will leave Italy tomorrow carrying 18 tons of blankets, electric generators and other goods donated by the Italian Government, and six tons of medical supplies provided through the United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF).

The flight is part of the ongoing United Nations relief effort for Yemen. The Organization is particularly concerned about an estimated 370,000 persons in the southern/eastern governorates who appear to have been most affected by the recent armed conflict.

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